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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Separation from Military Service: Procedures and
Papers / Reserve Officers' Training

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1. "The following information on procedures for separation from military service in Albania date to Aug 52.

2. "Termination of military service, the Cmobilizim or discharge, is marked by an Order of Discharge, the Urdher Cmobilizim. Every year, at the end of September or beginning of October, an Urdher Cmobilizim, bearing the signature of the Supreme Commander of the Albanian Armed Forces, Enver Hoxha, is published in the following papers:

Luftari

- Official organ of the Albanian Armed Forces.

Zeri Popullit

- Official organ of the Central Committee of the Albanian Labor Party.

Bashkimi

- Official organ of the Fronti Demokratik.

Since it is a decree it appears later in the Gazeta Zyrtare (Official Gazette) of the Presidium Ruvendit Popullore which is published once a month. The same Order of Discharge is broadcast

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over Radio Tirana. The announcement orders the Section of Mobilization and Discharge of the Ministria Mbrojtje Kombetare (Ministry of People's Defence) to effect the discharge orders. About a week later the Order reaches through official channels the divisional headquarters of the various branches of the Armed Forces. The Order of Discharge establishes a period of one month within which military personnel who have completed their term of military service are to be discharged. Theoretically, the terms of compulsory military service in the various branches of the Armed Forces do not exceed three years:

Marinen Popullore (Navy)	- 3 years
Mbrojtje Popullore (People's Defence)	- 3 years
Avacioni (Air Force)	- 3 years
Artilleria Bregdetare (Coastal Artillery)	- 2 years
Kamshoria (Infantry)	- 2 years
Merridhnie e Zhenio (Telecommunications and Engineers)	- 2 years

The length of service is calculated from the precise date a conscript received his Fleta-Thirrje-Nenarime (Order of Draft) from the Kyra Rekrutimit (Recruiting Office). In practice, the official terms for military service are not respected. The Orders of Discharge furnished by the Section of Mobilization and Discharge of the Ministria Mbrojtje Kombetare to the divisional headquarters contain, in addition to a list of the military personnel a headquarters is permitted to discharge, a list of the military personnel assigned to attend further courses, e.g. Reserve Officers' School.

3. "Procedures for separation from military service should be discussed in three categories:

- I - Separation of the normal ushtar (soldier), who is a member of neither the Albanian Labor Party (CP) nor the Hashkimi Rinis Punes Shoiprise (Union of Albanian Working Youth -- the CP youth organization).
- II - Separation of an ushtar who is a Kandidat Partie (Labor Party candidate), an Antar Partie (Labor Party member) or an Antar E.R.P.SH. (member of the Union of Albanian Working Youth).
- III - Separation of an Antar Partie, a Kandidat Partie or an Antar E.R., who has been ordered by the Ministria Mbrojtje Kombetare to attend courses for Reserve Officers.

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4. "Within a military unit the Order of Discharge is announced to all personnel concerned at a special mledhia-repartit (unit meeting), about a week after the issue of the decree governing discharge from the Armed Forces for that year. For example, at the Shkolla Artillerise Mbrojtjes Bregdetare (Coastal Artillery School) in Lurres:

The entire military unit /1951/ was gathered in the courtyard. The C.C. (Lt. Misto Kita) and the Political Commissar (Toger Shensi Gakciri) stood behind a table in front. After receiving the command from the Officeri Roje (officer of the day), the C.C. read aloud the Urdher-Emobilizim. He then handed a list of names to the C.C. of each of the three Bateria comprising the battalion of the school a list of men due for discharge. Attached to each list were the Urdher-Emobilizim for each man listed. The Political Commissar made a farewell speech wishing the men good luck and stressing the importance of keeping military secrets learned in the performance of duty. The three Bateria then got the lists of men assigned for further training at Officers' School. That ended the initial discharge procedure.

5. "Although a soldier may have completed his period of military service the Order of Discharge may be delayed for several reasons: the needs of the unit, especially at periods when new conscripts are arriving; the specialized qualifications of the soldiers; the current projects of the unit; the branch of the Armed Forces. There is apt to be considerable delay in the discharge of a valuable soldier.

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Urdrher - Urdhrin

6. The individual Order of Discharge paper is a red stencilled paper, sized 21 cms x 30 cms, in which the name etc. of the soldier are inserted, with ink or typewriter, by an official of the military unit concerned. The heading of the paper is a repetition of the official Order of Discharge published in the press and over the radio. The paper bears the original signature of the C.O. of the Division concerned. It bears the stamp of the Division. The translation of a typical Urdrher-Urdhrin might read as follows:

V.F.

I.P.

Albanian People's Army
Military Unit No. 1750
Nr....Prot....

Durrës- 12/1/1952

URDRHER - URDHRIN

ORDER OF THE DAY OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ALBANIAN ARMED FORCES,
GENERAL OF THE ARMY - ENVER HOXHA - MINISTER OF PEOPLE'S DEFENCE, TIRANA:
TODAY, 5/XI/1952 UNTIL 31/XI/1952, I DO HEREBY ORDER THE DISCHARGE OF ALL
SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND NGOS DRAFTED FOR MILITARY SERVICE IN 1949.
THE MINISTRY OF PEOPLE'S DEFENCE, SECTION OF MOBILIZATION AND DISCHARGE,
IS HEREBY CHARGED TO EFFECT THIS ORDER AND APPLY IT THROUGHOUT ALL
MILITARY UNITS OF THE ALBANIAN ARMED FORCES.

KOMANDANTI SUPREMI I FORCET TAPAKESUR TE REP. ENVER HOXHA."

Soldier, member of Military Unit 1750 until
5 October 1952, being drafted 5 October 1949, is issued an Urdhrin
a Urdhrin from the Army because he has completed his military
term. He was born....., son of (first name of each parent), and lived
in the region of Luges, village of Letaj, Street.....No.....Profession
prior to induction.....He is herewith discharged from the Albanian
People's Armed Forces.

The above-named soldier must report with this present
Order of Discharge to the Recruiting office of the Region or City where
he was drafted.

The responsible Recruiting Office must issue him all
documents required upon termination of military service, as well as
documents needed for civilian life.

USHTARIA-TOBILIZIMI-SHQIPTARIS

/Albanian People's Army/

KOMANDA REKRUTIT USHTARIA nr. 1750

/Hdqs. Military Unit No. 1750/

KOMANDANTI HERQITIS BREGJETARE - DURRES

/Commanding Officer of the Division of
Coastal Defence, Durrës/

KOLONEL (signature)

(Stamp of the Division)

Procedure of Category I - Normal Ushtar

7. The first step for Ushtar I, after having been informed verbally by the C.O. of his
Bateria that his discharge has come through, is to hand back the issue of military equipment
(including clothing and rifle) to the Kuqjdestar a Bateria (Innkeeper of the Bateria). This
takes place in the courtyard of the barracks. A line of three soldiers abreast, undressed,
advances to the Kuqjdestar and delivers up all clothing and weapons. The ushtar receives in
exchange the worst summer military uniform rags - literally:

-1 pair of braka (long drawers)

1 kamurja (shirt)

1 pordallana (trousers)

1 shaketa (jacket)

1 pair of keputa (shoes)

1 kapela (cap)

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8. Signatures are required when this clothing and equipment issue is returned.

9. When Kuqjdestar of the Bateria then pays the discharged soldiers who sign on the Bateria e Roges (Pay Roll). Each soldier receives a full month's pay, even if discharged after the fifteenth of the month. The normal pay of an ushtar is 100 Lek per month. The soldiers also receive at this time food rations for three days (bread and canned beef). The army provides free transportation for discharged recruits to the home Zyra Rekrutimit (Recruiting Office), if the number of men from one regional capital is not less than 40 (enough to fill a truck). If a discharged soldier is to travel home alone, he receives an additional cash allowance to pay the price of a bus ticket to the nearest town. An ushtar in this category receives his personal Urdher-Cmobilizim from the Kuqjdestar and is free to start his trip home.

9. "If Ushtar X is travelling in a group to the Zyra Rekrutimit of his region, he receives from the Kuqjdestar only his pay and his food rations. The Urdher-Cmobilizim are handed to the armed officer or NCO accompanying the truck of discharged personnel. Groups of discharged soldiers travel on trains only to Tirana, Elbasan and Shkoder. The Army's free transportation ends at the Zyra Rekrutimit of the regional capital, thus a discharged soldier going from Durrës to Letaj would have free transportation as far as Kukes. There is usually some sort of welcoming ceremony at the regional Zyra Rekrutimit, organized in the main square of the town by the People's Board and Party and Youth organizations of the regional capital. There is band music. When the soldiers actually reach the Zyra Rekrutimit the escort officer or NCO takes a roll call and hands each man his Urdher-Cmobilizim. The men then report to the Rekrutimit to hand back their demobilization clothes and to get their military papers and civilian Identity Cards. They are now free to travel to their homes. The date for return to the Zyra Rekrutimit is not registered on the back of the Urdher-Cmobilizim; it is given verbally. It is usually within two-ten days, depending on how far the soldier lives from the Zyra Rekrutimit and on the plans to organize the documentation procedures.

10. "Ushtar X starts his trip home. Assume that he lives in the village of Letaj in the Kukes region. Although this village is in a border zone area and Ushtar X at this point has no civilian Identity Card, his Urdher-Cmobilizim is sufficient identification if he is stopped for control by, for example, the S.SH. (Security Police). The Urdher-Cmobilizim is sufficient identification also for a soldier who has departed his unit alone, not in a group. Upon arrival in Letaj no documentation procedure is necessary. The man must report to the Kryetar of the Kshilli Katundit (President of the Village Council), but there is no registration procedure and his Urdher-Cmobilizim is not stamped. If the discharged soldier lives in a locality he reports to the Kryetari Komiteti Ekz. K. P. Lokalitetit (President of the Executive Committee of the People's Board for the locality), if he lives in the regional capital he reports to the Kryetar of the Kshilli Lagja (President of the Sector Council) of the town sub-sector in which he lives; if he lives in Tirana he reports also to the Kshilli Lagja of his rajone. In the town Lagja the Kryetar must also be told that changes are necessary on the lista (address) of the discharged soldier's place of residence. This is the printed form of the lista (address) inside of the main floor of every apartment, which lists the names of all those living in that apartment. The soldier usually shows the Kryetar his Urdher-Cmobilizim but is not compelled to do so, since the Kryetar usually knows about all units. Upon departure for military service a recruit must also report to his Kryetar, to whom he may show his Plets-Thirrje-Nenarmer - Order of Draft. But the Kryetar of a Lagja knows through the Seksionit Civile of the Rajone's People's Board all movements or transfers of persons within his sector. There is no ceremony when a discharged soldier reaches his home town or village. The ceremonies are only in the regional capitals: in Tirana there are usually civilian and military bands assembled in the Sheshi Skanderbeg.

11. During the period between a discharged soldier's return home and his date to return to the Zyra Rekrutimit, the headquarters of his military unit forwards to his Zyra Rekrutimit his Kartoni-Rekrutit (Recruit's personal file, including period served, where, service record etc. - the file that was forwarded to the unit when the man was inducted). The man reports back to his Zyra Rekrutimit on the date specified to complete documentation procedures. He hands in at the Cmobilizim section his Urdher-Cmobilizim. He receives in exchange all the personal membership cards and his Plets-Thirrje-Nenarmer (Identity Card) handed in at the time of induction. He hands back the clothing issue he received at the time of discharge. He does not get back the civilian clothing he surrendered at the time of induction. He is issued two food ration cards with a validity of one month: a Triska for bread and a Triska for other food commodities. He also receives a Librez-Ushtarake (Military Booklet). This is a booklet sized about 4 1/4 by 5 3/4 inches. It has a red cardboard cover and six white inside pages (12 sides). The front cover bears a serial number. Following is a translation of the various items covered:

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- Page 1: Name, surname, father's name, mother's name, date of birth, place of birth, rank, civilian address.
- Page 2: Participation in the War of National Liberation (as a Partisan) ?, which brigade?, length of service, voluntary or mobilized, rank prior to liberation, branch of service, wounds, awards -- this whole page pertains to Partisan activities.
- Page 3: Date of mobilization, date of discharge, rank received during military service, branch of service, specialty, type of rifle taught to use, position covered while performing military service, any court-martial record.
- Page 4: Member of the Albanian Labor Party?, member of the Communist Youth Organization?, position held in one or both within the Army, record of arrests, infractions of military regulations, written or verbal commendations, special leaves for shockwork, any medals awarded during military service. This page bears at the bottom the signature of the commanding officer of the Zyra Rekrutimit and the stamp of that office. Every Zyra Rekrutimit has a different type stamp. This is fixed over the officer's signature. The stamp of the Zyra Rekrutimit Qytetit Tirane is round. The stamp of the Zyra Rekrutimit for Shkoder is triangular.
- Page 5: Kurse-Specializimi (Record of Specialized Courses): three columns -- Specialty (Specialiteti, e g artillery), Lenda (e g topographer), Koha (length of time, e g nine months). Rezultate-E Kursit (Results of Courses): three columns -- Specialty, Kategoria (category), Motivacion (marks); e g Artillery (topographer), 1st-2nd-or 3rd category, 'shkelqyshem'-excellent.
- Page 6: Kurse-Politike (Political Courses): three columns -- Puntore Politik-N/puntore politik (Political Worker - Vice Political Worker), Stazhi (length of course), Konspekti landevet (name of course); e g N/Puntor Politik, three months, History of the Communist Bolshevik Party. Rezultati-Kursit (Results of Courses): three columns -- pergjegjesija mbas mbarimit (responsible person), Komisioni Dega-Poli (opinion of the Dega-Politike Commission), Perfundim (marks); e g Puntor Politik, 'I afte'-good, 'shkelqyshem'.
- Page 7: Orders of Transfer from one Military Unit to Another (while doing military service).
- Page 8: Urderet-Mobilizimi, Draft Orders; page to be used to record future call ups for periodic military training.
- Page 9: Te-Ndryshme; various observations.
- Page 10: Left blank as continuation of Page 9.
- Page 11: Also blank, to be used as continuation.
- Page 12: Shenime per te cmobilizuesmit -- Remarks for the person discharged. This page lists regulations for bearer of the librez-ushtarak, e g have document always in possession, have it stamped at the Zyra Rekrutimit upon departure from one town to another-- within 24 hours.
- The inside of the front cover has a place for the bearer's picture. This picture is not necessarily attached. The picture of the bearer is affixed to the librez-ushtarak.
12. Before the discharged soldier returns home again he must report to the regional Sek. P. Mbrodeshme Rrethit (Security Police headquarters for the region), which is naturally in the same town as the Zyra Rekrutimit, to have his Njeftim stamped and registered. If he lives in the city of Tirana, he goes through the same procedure at the Sek. Mbrodeshme of his Rajone. This ends the separation procedure for an ordinary soldier.

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Procedure of Category II- Ushtar who is a member or candidate of the Labor Party or a member of the Union of Albanian Working Youth.

13. The procedures for the Antar Partie and Kandidat Partie are the same as for the normal ushtar, with the following additions:

- (a) They attend a special meeting prior to discharge. This meeting is organized by the political commissar of the military unit, e.g. of the Artillery School at Durres.
- (b) They must obtain a Rekomendim issued by the Secretary of the Party's Basic Organization for the entire unit and addressed to the Dega Politike (Political Branch) of the Divisional Headquarters, if the military unit is in the same town as the Divisional Headquarters (e.g. the Dega Politike for the Division of Coastal Defence in Durres - Br. Mujo Ulqinaku), or to the Chief of the Political Section of the Regiment, if the regiment is stationed in a town far from divisional headquarters. This Rekomendim is a written document which testifies to the bearer's status in the Party; it is similar to one Rekomendim issued when the member or candidate was drafted. The man reports with the Rekomendim to the organization addressed and a Flete-Bidhje document, the same that was surrendered upon induction. This document is in a sealed envelope. I understand that it states the bearer's Party status, the length of membership, the number of his membership card, the status of his membership fees.
- (c) The Kandidat or Antar Partie leaves for his Gjyra Rekrutimit. After receiving his Urder-Emobilizim there, he must in the interim period before final discharge report to the Seksionit Organizacionit of the Komiteti Partis Punes Brethit of the region or the Komiteti Partis Punes Gytetit-Tirane (Labor Party Committee of the City of Tirana, if he lives in Tirana -- not, note, to the Basic Party Organization of the Rajone). There he hands the sealed Flete-Bidhje to the secretary and receives in exchange a new Rekomendim. This is addressed, if he lives in Tirana, to the Secretary of the Org. Baze Partis Punes Rajone (the Party Basic Organization of the Rajone, in whichever of the three rajones the man lives); otherwise to the secretary of the Basic Organization of the Party in the man's native locality or village, or the one nearest to him. This Rekomendim is handed to the addressee when the man returns home and serves for the continuation of his Party activities and payment of membership fees.

14. The procedures for an Antar Bashkimi Rinis uneshqiprise (Member of the Union of Albanian Working Youth) are the same as for the normal ushtar, with the following additions:

- (a) Each Antar B.R. .H. receives directly from the President of the Org. Baze e Rinis Reparti Ushtrarak (Basic Organization of the B.R. .H. for the regiment) a Flete-Bidhje. The President has secured these for each member from the Dega Politike of the Division, if the unit is stationed in the same town, or from the Political Section of the Regiment. The Flete-Bidhje is handed over in a sealed envelope which also contains the Anketa Personale (Personal File) of the member.

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"The Anketa Personale and Flete-Bidhje for a B.R.F.S.H. member are handed to the draftee by the Sekretari Organizative of the Regional or City (Tirana) Youth Organization responsible; after he has handed over his Rekomendim from his (state plant, enterprise etc. or from the Youth Organization of his village, locality or lagja." /

- (b) Upon arrival at his Gjyra Rekrutimit the Antar B.R. .H. completes the same formalities as other discharged soldiers. He must also report with the sealed Flete-Bidhje and Anketa Personale to the Sekretari Organizativ of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Brethit (regional organization of the B.R. .H.), if he lives in any place but Tirana, or to the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Gytetit-Tirane, if he lives in the city of Tirana. There he receives another Rekomendim, addressed to the President of the Organizata Baze e Rinise upon which he depends (e.g. of village, locality or town lagja). The President of the Organizata Baze e Rinise concerned takes this Rekomendim, which serves for the continuation of Youth Organization activities and payment of membership fees.

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Procedure of Category III - Ushtar who has been ordered to attend the Shkolla Officerave Rezerve (Reserve officers' School) at Durres.

15. "It should first be noted that there exist in the Albanian Armed Forces the following officers' schools only:

- (a) Shkolla e Bashkuar Officerave Enver Hoxha (Enver Hoxha United Officers' School), Nr. Bajram Curri, Tirana. This is the school for career officers in the Armed Forces.
- (b) Shkolla Officerave Rezerve (Reserve Officers' School), located in the former Artillery School barracks at Re Fiepat, five km southeast of the port of Durres. This is the only reserve officers' school in Albania [as of mid 1952]. It commissions officers of the Reserve Corps for all arms of the Albanian Armed Forces except the Navy and Air Force. The courses last three months. The school graduates Reserve Officers with the rank of Aspiranta for the following branches and specialties of the Armed Forces:

Mbrojtia Popullore	- People's Defence
Kamsoria	- Infantry
Artilleria	- Artillery
Tankista	- Tanks
Kondrajror	- Antiaircraft
Radista	- Radio
Nderlidhie	- Telecommunications
Puntor Politik	- Political Officers
Instruktor Fizikulture	- Sports Instructor
Thenia	- Engineers

- (c) Shkolla N/Mjek- Kryeinfermjer - Infermjer, situated in the Spitali Pergjithshem Ushtarak (Military Hospital), Nr. Dibra, Tirana. This school depends on the Health section of the Ministry of Defence. It commissions officers (aspiranta) and NCO's for the Medical Corps to serve all the Albanian Armed Forces: N/Mjek (Vice-Physicians or Assistant Physicians), Kryeinfermjer (Chief Hospital Attendants) or Infermjer (Attendants).

16. "There are no officers' schools for career or reserve officers of the Navy or Air Force. These officers are commissioned only in the USSR, where they attend special courses. I know nothing about reserve officers of the Navy

17. "There are no schools for NCO's per se. NCO's are commissioned at the various divisional and regimental schools, e.g. the Shkolla Artillerise Mbrojtjes Eregdetare (Coastal Artillery School), Durres. Those graduating with the best military and political records at the end of their term of compulsory military service are selected to attend the Shkolla Officerave Rezerve. All selected for the Shkolla Officerave Rezerve must be of Kandidat or Antar Partie status or among the best elements of the B.R.P.H. The Political Directorate and Seksionit Kuadrit (Personnel Section) of the Ministry of Defence have the final say in the choice of individuals to become reserve officers and in their scheduled specialty, and they respect the suggestions of the Bega Politike of the Headquarters of the Division concerned. When the decree and Order of Discharge is issued by the Ministry of Defence, every division of the Armed Forces receives a list of the men who are to go on to attend courses at the Shkolla Officerave Rezerve.

18. "A soldier falling in this category follows a special procedure:

- (a) After attending the usual political meeting with the Political Komissar of his military unit, he follows the same procedure as members of Category II, to obtain his Rekomendim and his Plote-Idhje (addressed to the Political section of the Shkolla Officerave Rezerve; this if he is a Party member or candidate.)
- (b) If the soldier is a member of the Youth Organization, he secures directly from the President of the Youth Basic Organization of the entire military unit a sealed envelop with his anketa (personal and Plote-Idhje).
- (c) The soldier, regardless of Party or Youth Organization status, hands over to the Gujdestar of his Bateria all clothing items, weapons and blankets except the uniform he is actually wearing. He receives one month's wage, according to his rank -- 99% are NCO's. If he travels to the school alone he is issued a

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Flete-Leje (Permit) document, on which a note is typed at the bottom stating that he is to report on such and such date to the Shkolla Officerave Rezerve, Durrës. If he travels there in a group, as do most, no Flete-Leje is issued; the group is escorted by an officer from the Shkolla Officerave Rezerve. This ends the documentation procedures. The soldier's Kartoni-Rekrutit (Personal File) is sent direct from divisional headquarters to the school.

19. "When a soldier arrives at the Shkolla Officerave Rezerve he loses any previous NCO rank and becomes a Kursant. The course lasts three months. Upon completion of the course he is commissioned an Aspiranta (first rank below sub-lieutenant). His discharge follows the normal procedure for Categories I and II, including the issue of a Flete-Lidhje for the respective Party or Youth organization unit to which he belongs. The only difference is that the man, as an officer of the Reserve, receives as his permanent military document a Libreze-Ushtarake per Oficera Rezerve-Military Book for Reserve Officers. This is similar to the Libreze-Ushtarake / see Paragraph 11 / except that it bears the longer title. Although there is a place for the bearer's picture on the inside of the front cover, [redacted] don't think it is usual to have it affixed.

[redacted] an Army dentist [redacted] reports that it is necessary to have the bearer's picture affixed in the Libreze-Ushtarake per Oficera Rezerve. The dentist also reports that Page 4 of the Military Book for Reserve Officers has four additional questions to those on Page 4 in the simple Libreze-Ushtarake:

--'Ka sherbye n'ushtirine e maparshme (regjimi Zogut) dhe kohen e Okupacionit?:
'Did bearer perform service during Zog's regime or during the occupation?'

--'Ashte plagose kur ka sherbye ne u'shtirine e maparshme?': 'What injuries did bearer suffer during above military service?'

--'Cmedalje mban n'ushtirine e maparshme?': 'What awards and medals was bearer granted during this military service?'

[redacted]
[redacted] no former officers of the previous Albanian regime have had their rank confirmed by the present Communist authorities or have been accepted in the Reserve Officers' Corps. [redacted] there might be one or two holdovers, but they would be top staff officers and career men, not members of the Reserve. 7

-- end--

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